



In This Issue:

Budget Cuts for Bay County

**Michigan Great Lakes Wind
Council Engage Public**

**Bay County Schools Want to
Go Green**

**Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative
Upcoming Meeting being
Hosted by Bay County**

News from the Bay County Executive

Tom Hickner

Special Upcoming Earth Day Events

**April 17 - City of Bay
City's Mayor's Annual
Cleanup Day**
[Click here for more
information](#)

**April 17 - The 16th
Annual Ed Golson Earth
Day Compost Event**
[Click here for more
information](#)

April 22 - Earth Day
[Click here for more
information](#)

**April 22 - Delta College
Earth Day**
[Click here for more
information](#)

**April 24 - Gypsy Moth
Suppression Program:
Invasive Species
Presentation**
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information](#)

**April 30 - National Arbor
Day**
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information](#)

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Budget Cuts for Bay County

With reductions in state funding and lower property tax assessments due to the housing market, Bay County continues to reduce spending. The county is looking to cut approximately \$400,000 in spending which will effect all county departments and elected officials without creating employee layoffs.

Since 1993, the county has balanced budgets without property increasing taxes. Major spending cuts started in 2004. We have instituted lean manufacturing techniques to continue efforts to make county operations efficient. Cuts will continue due to projected shortfalls through 2013.

During my recent State of the County address, residents were assured that Bay County "will do our best to support our criminal justice system to ensure our community is safe, provide vital services to help with the health care needs of young children, provide important services to our ever growing number of elderly residents, and continue to enhance our community's quality of life."

Michigan Great Lakes Wind Council Engage Public

In 2009, Governor Granholm created the Michigan Great Lakes Council through an executive order to gather information regarding offshore wind energy. As County Executive, I was appointed to serve on the council. Our focus has been to compile



Quick Links

Bay County

Recycling Information for Bay County

information and educate the public on offshore wind energy.

The council found clean energy technology to be a great source for creating jobs in Michigan, as well as diversifying the state's economy. Wind energy is a long-term investment that will lower Green House Gas emissions and avert increasing costs for fuels.

Recently, the council held an informational meeting at Saginaw Valley State University where they presented their findings ([Click here](#) to see the full presentation).

[Click here](#) for more information regarding the council's efforts.

Bay County Schools Want to Go Green

At this month's Ways and Means Committee Meeting, the Board approved the applications of five Bay County schools to participate in the Michigan Green Schools Act Initiative. Commissioner Don Tilley and Environmental Affairs & Community Development Director Laura Ogar sponsored Bangor West Elementary School, Christa McAuliffe Middle School, Lincoln Elementary School, and Pinconning High/Middle Schools in their pursuit to become greener schools.

The Michigan Green Schools Act comes from an Executive Order by Governor Granholm in May 2006 that grants "Michigan Green Schools" title if the schools meet a certain requirements, some of which include:

- Recycling programs
- Institution of energy saving program
- Adoption of an endanger specie
- Establishment of garden project with native plants
- Classes perform energy audits of their classrooms
- Observation of Earth Day in April in some way



For more information on the Michigan Green Schools Act criteria requirements, [CLICK HERE](#)

For more information of The Official Michigan Green School non-profit agency, [CLICK HERE](#)

Upcoming Meeting being Hosted by Bay County

The Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative will be hosting a meeting on "Phosphorus: Lawns, Lakes, and Your Community," followed by a round table discussion on accomplishments, priorities, and SBCI news/information distribution.

The event will take place on May 14, 2010 at the DoubleTree Hotel from 8:30AM-5:00PM.

Click here for more information on SBCI.

Sincerely,

Tom Hickner
Bay County Executive

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